

# A Framework for Easing the Development of Applications Embedding Answer Set Programming

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# Outline

Introduction

Answer Set Programming (ASP)

The Framework

Abstract Architecture

Implementing EMBASP

Embedding ASP Programs

ASP-based Applications

Related Work

Conclusions

# Introduction

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# Motivations

- *Declarative and Imperative languages integration*
- *Answer Set Programming (ASP)* is mature for practical applications and it is used all around the world
- Ease the development of *ASP-based applications*, in both educational and real-world contexts
- Separation of Concerns (or Levels of Analysis)
- ICT industry is moving towards the mobile scenario
- Lack of works about ASP systems natively running on *mobile devices*

# Contributions

- **EMBASP**: an abstract framework for the integration of ASP in external systems for generic applications
- An actual Java implementation of the framework with specialized libraries for two state-of-the-art ASP systems
- Some fully functional applications developed in the educational context

Freely available at

<https://www.mat.unical.it/calimeri/projects/embasp/>

# Answer Set Programming (ASP)

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A purely declarative AI formalism for *Knowledge Representation and Reasoning* developed in the field of *Logic Programming and Nonmonotonic Reasoning*

- language based on *rules*, allowing for both *disjunction in rule heads* and *nonmonotonic negation in the body*
- use *logic program* to represent a given computational problem
- an *answer set solver* is used to find the *models*, called *answer sets*, which correspond one-to-one to solutions of the computational problem

As in the ASP-Core-2 standard [CFG+12]

- A *term* is a variable or a constant
  - An *atom* is  $a(t_1, \dots, t_n)$ , where
    - $a$  is a *predicate* of arity  $n$
    - $t_1, \dots, t_n$  are *terms*
  - A *literal* is either
    - *positive literal*  $p$
    - or a *negative literal* **not**  $p$
- where  $p$  is an *atom*.

## ASP - Syntax II

A (*disjunctive*) rule  $r$  is of the form

$$a_1 \mid \cdots \mid a_n :- b_1, \dots, b_k, \text{not } b_{k+1}, \dots, \text{not } b_m.$$

where:

- $a_1, \dots, a_n, b_1, \dots, b_m$  are atoms and  $n \geq 0, m \geq k \geq 0$
- $a_1 \mid \cdots \mid a_n$  is the *head* of  $r$
- $b_1, \dots, b_k, \text{not } b_{k+1}, \dots, \text{not } b_m$  is the *body* of  $r$
- If the *head* is empty (i.e.  $n = 0$ ), it is called an *integrity constraint*
- If the *body* is empty (i.e.  $k = m = 0$ ), it is called a *fact*
- $H(r)$  denotes the set  $\{a_1, \dots, a_n\}$  of the head atoms
- $B(r)$  the set  $\{b_1, \dots, b_k, \text{not } b_{k+1}, \dots, \text{not } b_m\}$  of the body literals
- $B^+(r)$  (resp.,  $B^-(r)$ ) denotes the set of atoms occurring positively (resp., negatively) in  $B(r)$
- A rule  $r$  is *safe* if each variable appearing in  $r$  appears also in  $B^+(r)$

One of the most common ASP programming methodology is the “Guess&Check” (*GC*) paradigm [EFLP00]

- a **Guessing Part**, that defines the search space (for instance, by means of disjunctive rules)
- a **Checking Part** (optional), that checks solution admissibility (usually, by means of *integrity constraints*)

# Knowledge Representation and Reasoning with ASP

One of the most common ASP programming methodology is the “Guess&Check” (*GC*) paradigm [EFLP00]

- a **Guessing Part**, that defines the search space (for instance, by means of disjunctive rules)
- a **Checking Part** (optional), that checks solution admissibility (usually, by means of *integrity constraints*)

That can be further extended to match the “Guess/Check/Optimize” (*GCO*) paradigm [BLR97]

- **Optimizing Part** (optional), that specifies preference criteria (usually, by means of *weak constraints* [BLR97, CFG<sup>+</sup>12])

## ASP example - SUDOKU - Input

A set of facts  $F$  is given representing the schema to be completed:

- a binary predicate  $pos$  encoding possible position coordinates;
- a unary predicate  $symbol$  encoding possible symbols (numbers);
- facts of the form  $sameblock(x1, y1, x2, y2)$  state that two positions  $(x1, y1)$  and  $(x2, y2)$  are within the same block;
- facts of the form  $cell(x, y, n)$  represent that a position  $(x, y)$  is filled with symbol  $n$ .

## ASP example - SUDOKU - logic program

An ASP program  $P_{sudoku}$  such that the answer sets of  $P_{sudoku} \cup F$  correspond to the solutions of the Sudoku schema at hand:

$r_1 : \quad \text{cell}(X, Y, N) \mid \text{nocell}(X, Y, N) :- \text{pos}(X), \text{pos}(Y), \text{symbol}(N).$

$r_2 : \quad :- \text{cell}(X, Y, N), \text{cell}(X, Y, N1), N1 <> N.$

$r_3 : \quad \text{assigned}(X, Y) :- \text{cell}(X, Y, N).$

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$r_5 : \quad :- \text{cell}(X, Y1, Z), \text{cell}(X, Y2, Z), Y1 <> Y2.$

$r_6 : \quad :- \text{cell}(X1, Y, Z), \text{cell}(X2, Y, Z), X1 <> X2.$

$r_7 : \quad :- \text{cell}(X1, Y1, Z), \text{cell}(X2, Y2, Z), Y1 <> Y2,$   
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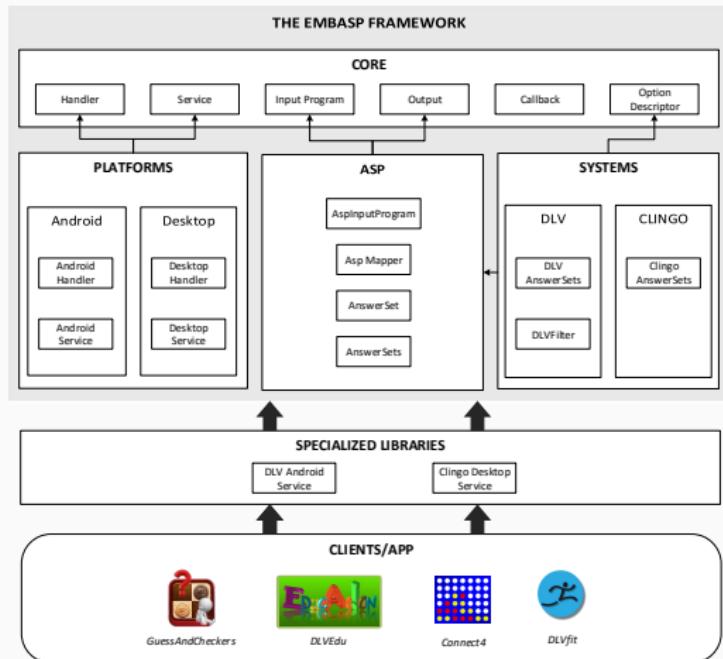
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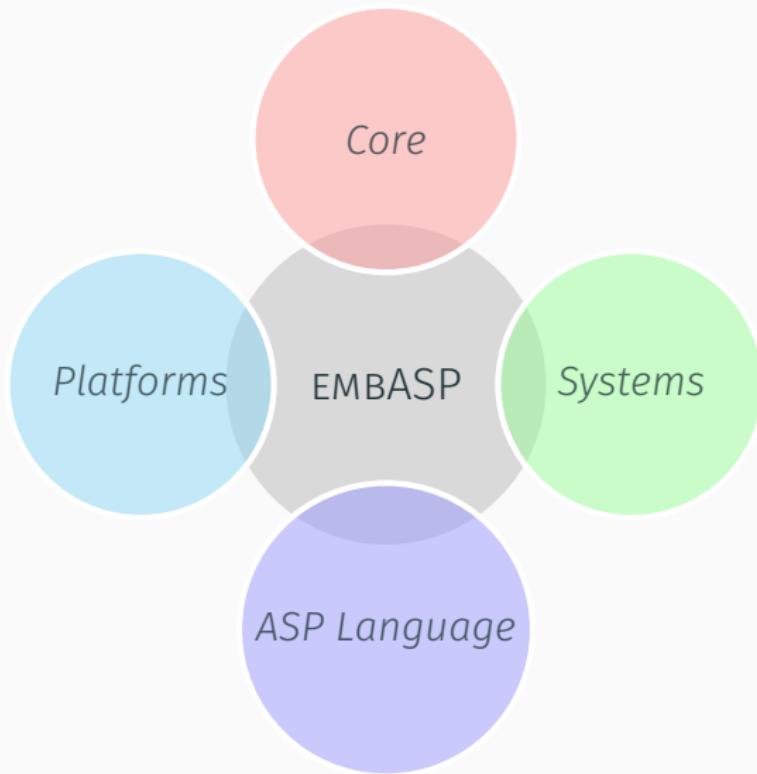
## The Framework

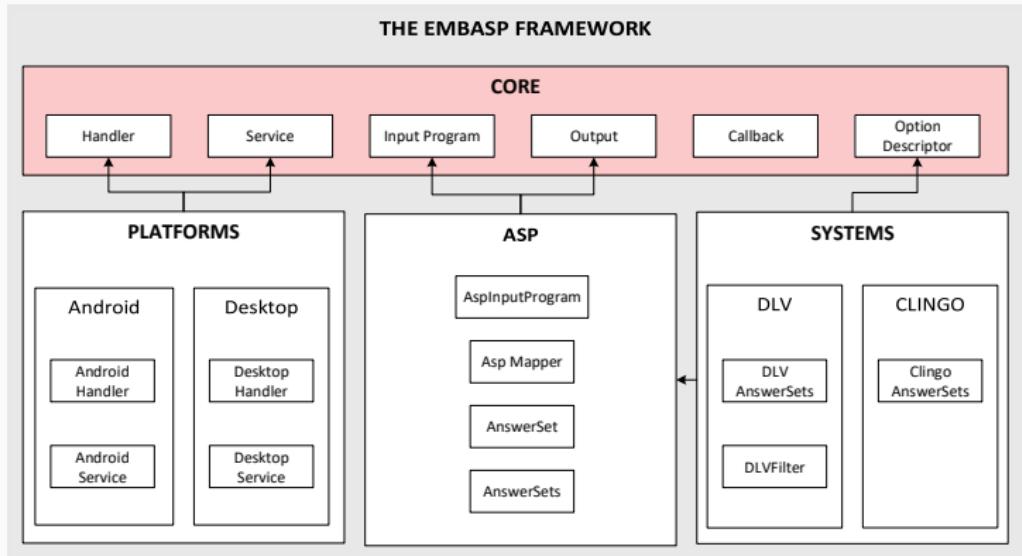
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# EMBASP - A visual overview



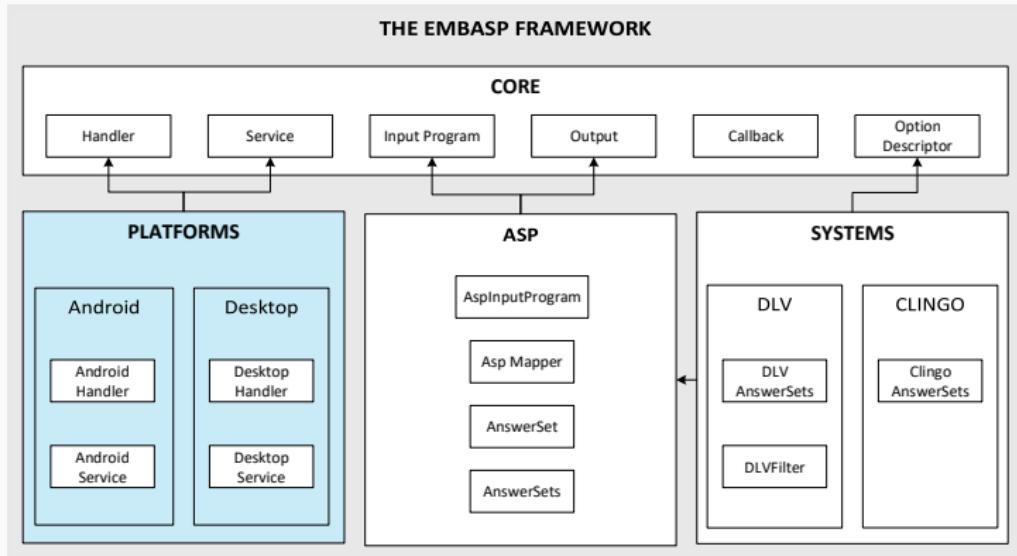
# EMBASP Abstract Architecture



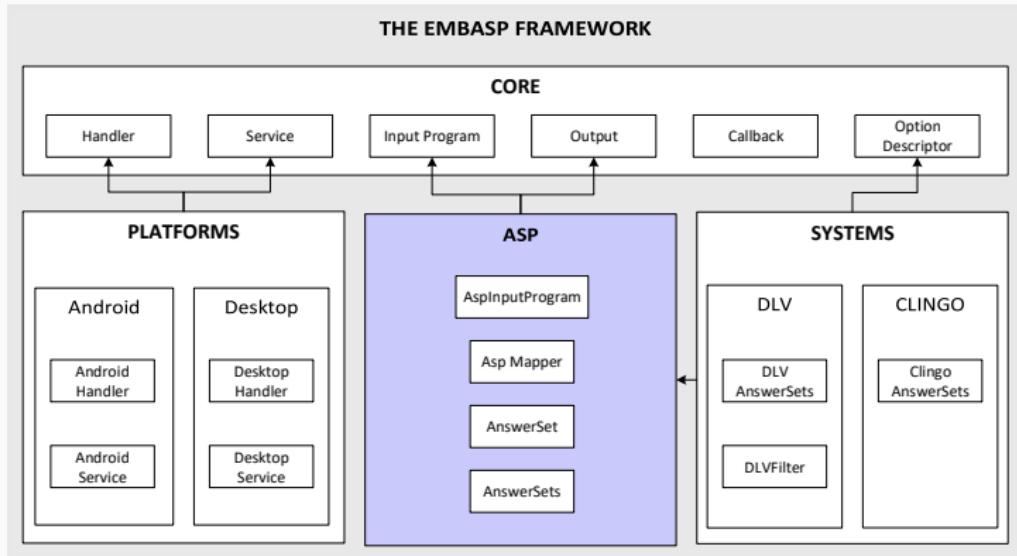


Defines the basic components of the *Framework*

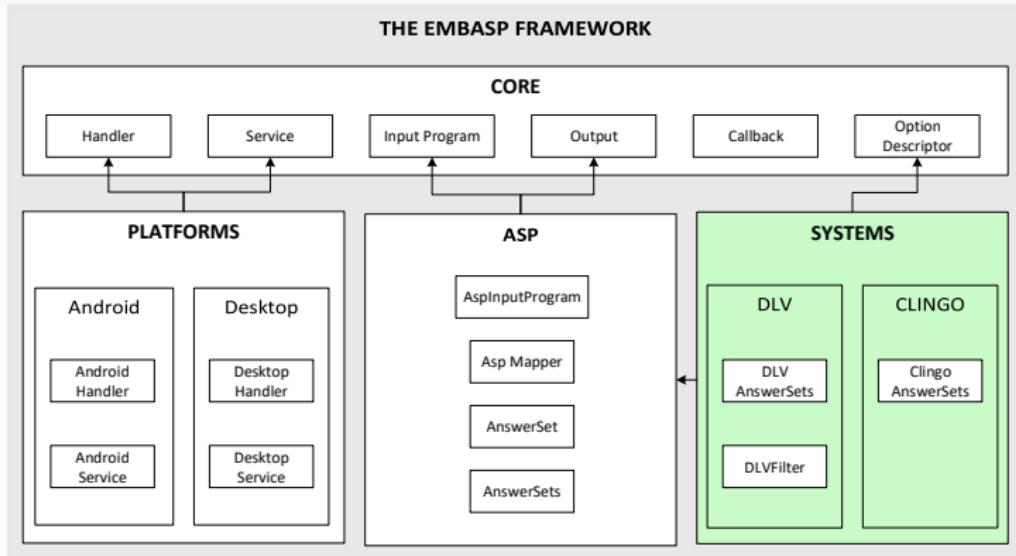
# EMBASP - *Platforms*



Contains what is platform-dependent



Defines specific facilities for ASP

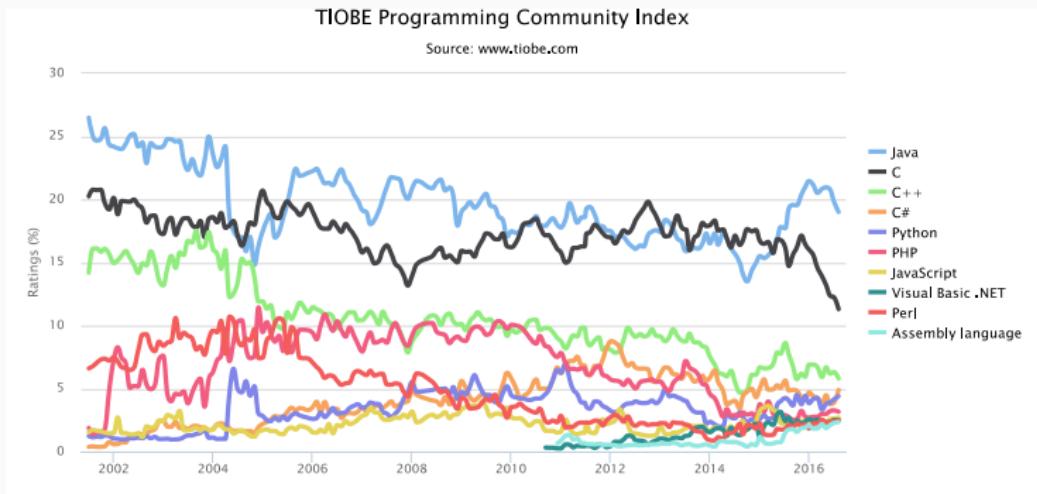


Defines what is system-dependent

# Implementing EMBASP

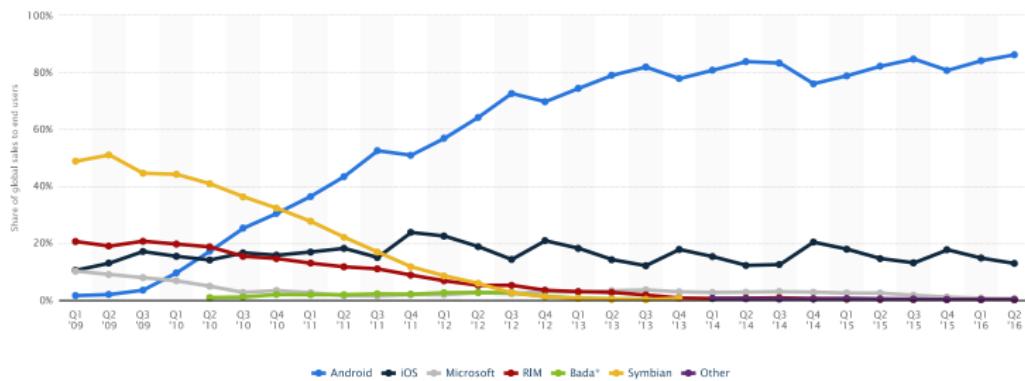
- Java implementation of the Framework
- Specializations for two of the state-of-the-art ASP systems

# Why Java? I



# Why Java? II

Global mobile OS market share in sales to end users from 1st quarter 2009 to 1st quarter 2016



Additional Information:

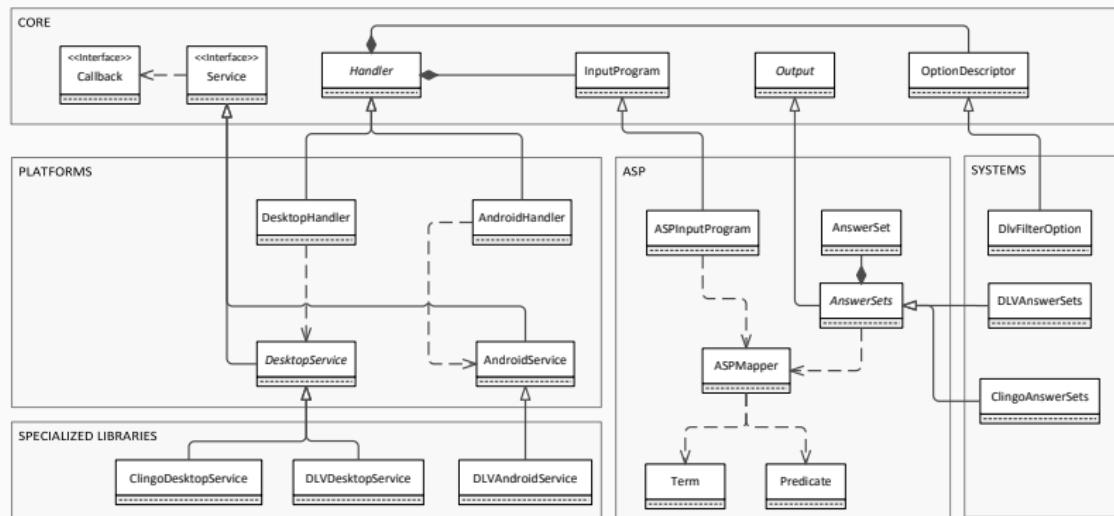
Worldwide; Gartner

© Statista 2016

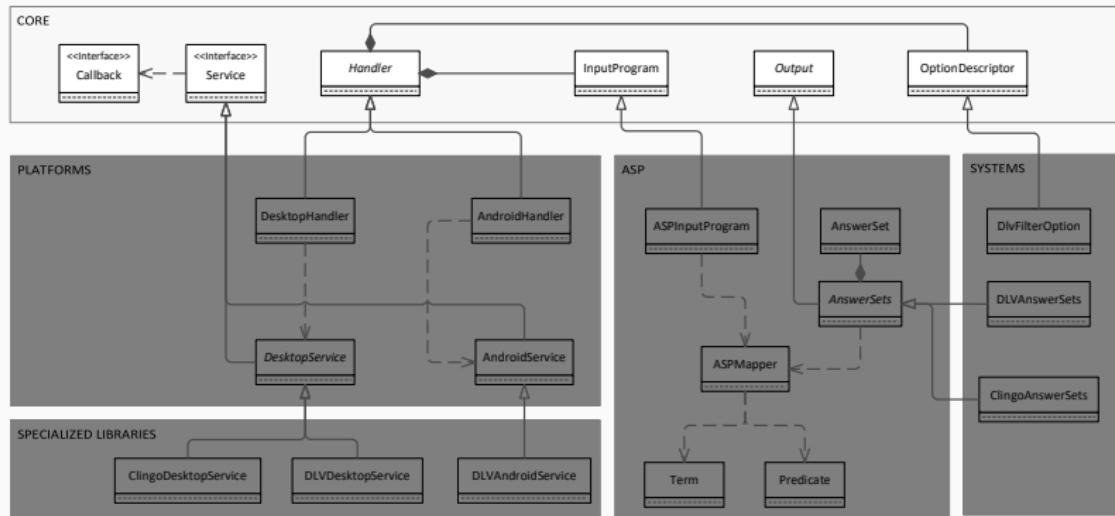
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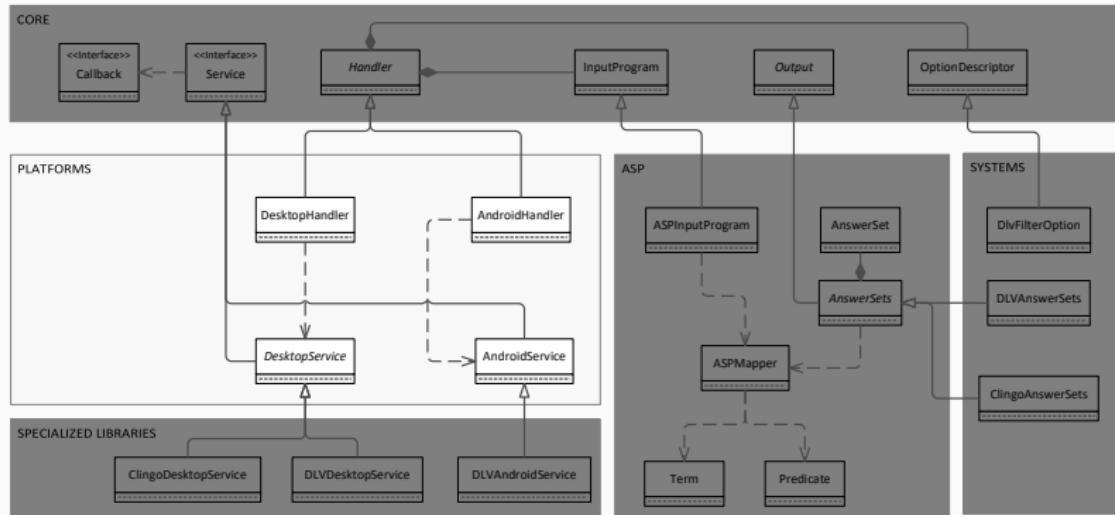
# Architecture



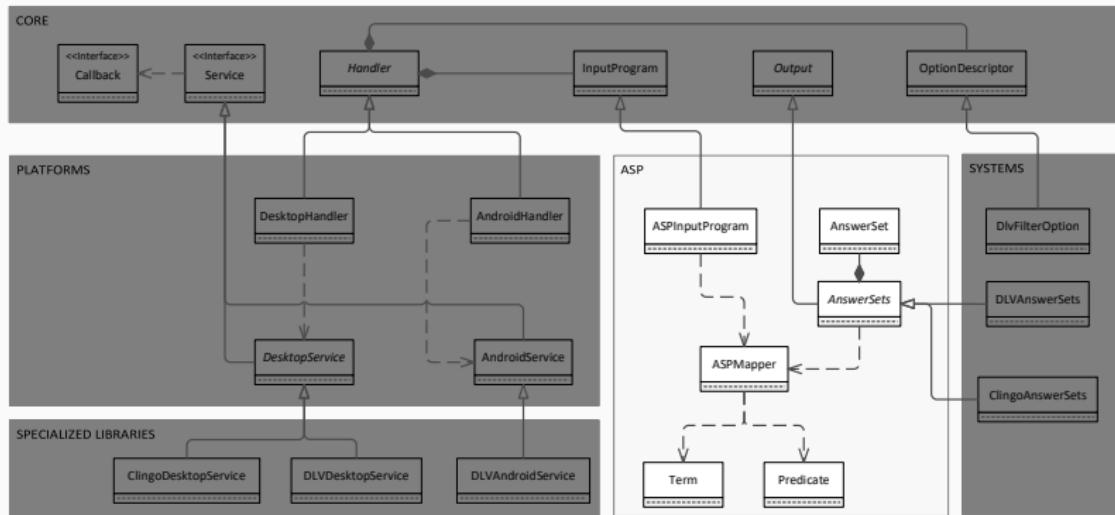
# EMBASP - Core



# EMBASP - Platforms



# EMBASP - ASP Language



# The ASPMapper

Two-way “translator” between strings recognizable by the ASP solver at hand and Java objects directly employable within the application

- Guided by the following Java Annotations:

***@Predicate (string\_name)***

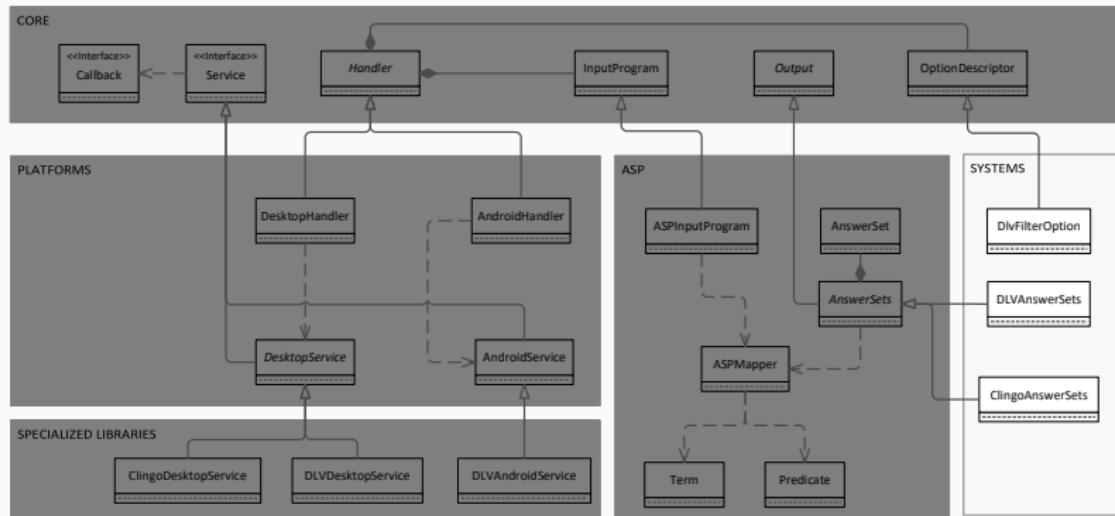
Defines the predicate name a class is mapped to

***@Term (integer\_position)***

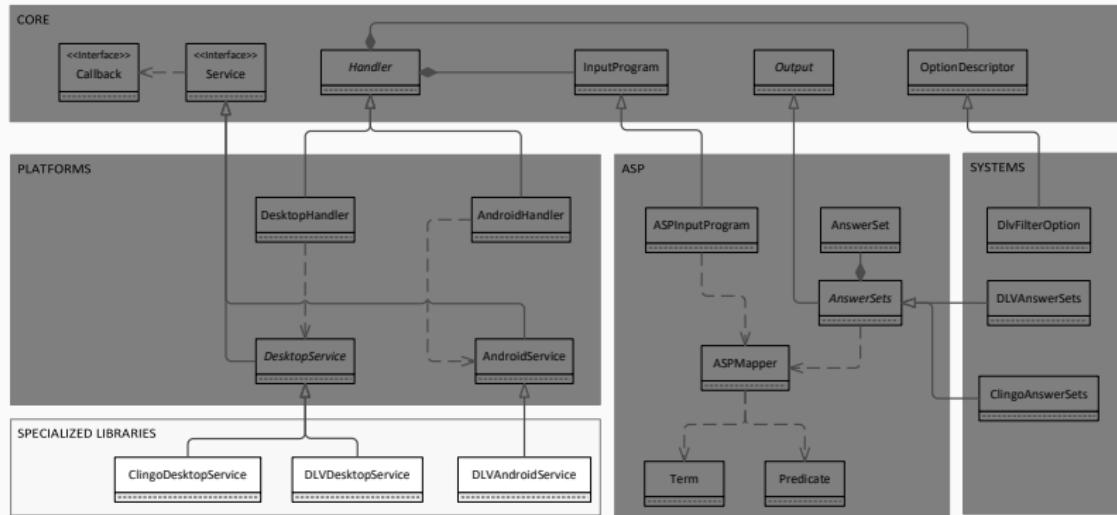
Defines the term (and its position) in the ASP atom the field is mapped to

- Uses the Java Reflection mechanisms to examine the Annotation at run-time and perform the translation
- Give developers the possibility to work separately on the ASP-based modules and on the Java side

# EMBASP - Systems



# EMBASP - Specialized Libraries



## Specializing the Framework - The Android case

*JNI (Java Native Interface) [Ora] and Android NDK (Native Development Kit) [Gooa]*

- The use of *JNI* grants the access to the API provided by the *Android NDK*, and to the exposed DLV functionalities directly from the Java code of an Android application
- The *NDK* allows developers to implement parts of an Android application as “native-code” languages, such as C and C++
- These technologies represent the general and standard way to realize the porting of a C++ software in an Android context

## Embedding ASP Programs

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# How to use EMBASP to build an app

Build an (Android) app for solving Sudoku puzzles using EMBASP

- We have a proper logic program to solve a sudoku puzzle
- We have also an initial schema

5	3			7				
6				1	9	5		
	9	8						6
8				6				3
4			8		3			1
7				2				6
	6					2	8	
			4	1	9			5
			8			7	9	

Full code available at:

<https://www.mat.unical.it/calimeri/projects/embasp/>

# How to use EMBASP to build an app - The Mapping

## The class Cell

```
1 @Predicate("cell")
2 public class Cell {
3
4     @Term(1)
5     private int row;
6
7     @Term(2)
8     private int column;
9
10    @Term(3)
11    private int value;
12
13    [...]
14
15 }
```

Thanks to the *annotations* the **ASPMapper** will be able to map **Cell** objects into strings properly recognizable from the ASP solver as *logic facts* of the form:

*cell(**Row*, *Column*, *Value*)

## How to use EMBASP to build an app - The Activity I

```
1 public class MainActivity extends AppCompatActivity {  
2     [...]  
3  
4     private Handler handler;  
5  
6     @Override  
7     protected void onCreate(Bundle bundle) {  
8         handler = new AndroidHandler(getApplicationContext(),  
9             DLVAndroidService.class);  
10    [...]  
11    }  
12    public void onClick(final View view){  
13        [...]  
14        startReasoning();  
15    }  
16    [...]
```

## How to use EMBASP to build an app - The Activity II

```
17 [...]
18     public void startReasoning() {
19
20         InputProgram inputProgram = new ASPIInputProgram();
21         for (int i = 0; i < 9; i++)
22             for (int j = 0; j < 9; j++)
23                 try {
24                     if(sudokuMatrix[i][j] != 0)
25                         inputProgram.addObjectInput(new Cell(i, j,
26                                         sudokuMatrix[i][j]));
27                 } catch (Exception e) { // Handle Exception }
28         handler.addProgram(inputProgram);
29
30         String sudokuEncoding = getEncodingFromResources();
31         handler.addProgram(new ASPIInputProgram(sudokuEncoding));
32
33         Callback callback = new MyCallback();
34     }}
```

## How to use EMBASP to build an app - The Callback

```
1 private class MyCallback implements Callback {  
2     @Override  
3     public void callback(Output o) {  
4         if(!(o instanceof AnswerSets)) return;  
5  
6         AnswerSets answerSets = (AnswerSets)o;  
7         if(answerSets.getAnswersets().isEmpty()) return;  
8  
9         AnswerSet as = answerSets.getAnswersets().get(0);  
10        try {  
11            for(Object obj : as.getAtoms()) {  
12                Cell cell = (Cell) obj;  
13                sudokuMatrix[cell.getRow()][cell.getColumn()] = cell.  
14                    getValue();  
15            } catch (Exception e) { // Handle Exception }  
16  
17            displaySolution();  
18    }}
```

## Other Language Implementations of EMBASP

The *abstract architecture* of EMBASP can be made concrete by means of other *object-oriented* programming languages

- It uses features that are typical of any object-oriented language, such as *inheritance* and *polymorphism*
- The unique exception is the *ASPMapper* component which uses *annotations* and *reflection*
  - Some languages have similar constructs
  - In others these constructs can be simulated applying typical *Software Engineering patterns* [GHJV94]

## ASP-based Applications: some Examples in the Educational Setting

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## Some Examples in the Educational Setting

ASP-based applications developed by means of EMBASP for educational purposes, and, in particular, in the context of a university course that covers ASP topics

- Engagement of university undergraduate students in ASP capabilities
- ASP looks well-fitted for the use in the development of educational/training software

## *GuessAndCheckers*

A native mobile application that works as an helper for users that play “live” games of the (Italian) checkers (i.e., by means of physical board and pieces)



A native mobile application that works as an helper for users that play “live” games of the (Italian) checkers (i.e., by means of physical board and pieces)

- by means of the device camera a picture of the board is taken
- the information about the current status of the game is properly inferred thanks to the *OpenCV* library
- an ASP-based artificial intelligence module then suggests the move



An educational Android App for children, that is able to guide the child throughout the learning tasks, by proposing a series of educational games



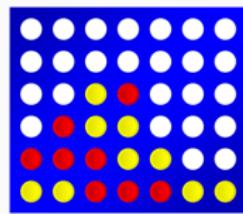
An educational Android App for children, that is able to guide the child throughout the learning tasks, by proposing a series of educational games

- dynamically builds and updates a customized educational path along the different games
- uses well-known mobile technologies, such as voice or drawn text recognition
- features a “Parent Area”, that allows parents to monitor child’s achievements and to express some preferences



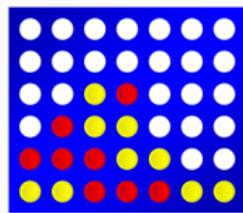
## Connect4

An Android application that allows a user to play the game against an ASP-based artificial player



An Android application that allows a user to play the game against an ASP-based artificial player

- different AIs designed and implemented
  - from the most powerful one (with advanced techniques for the perfect play)
  - to the simplest one (with some classical heuristic strategies)
- using EMBASP, two different versions of the same app have been built:
  - one for Android, making use of DLV
  - one for Java-enabled desktop platforms, making use of clingo.



A health app that aims at suggesting the owner of a mobile device the “best” way to achieve some fitness goals



A health app that aims at suggesting the owner of a mobile device the “best” way to achieve some fitness goals

- goals and preferences about habits and activities can be expressed in a customizable way
- using the Google Activity Recognition APIs [Goob], the app, in the background, constantly detects the current user activity
- at any time, the user might ask for a suggestion about a workout plan for the rest of the day



## Advantages of the approach used in these apps

- Wide range of customization possibilities thanks to the modelling capabilities and the declarative nature of ASP
- Flexibility and possibility to build the ASP program(s) at runtime and to customize the modules ease the developer's job of make the app comply to the user's desiderata

## Related Work

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## Related Work

### *Clingo4* [GKKS14]

- Enables a form of control over the computational tasks of the embedded ASP solver *Clingo* with scripting languages *lua* and *python*
- The main purpose is the support of dynamic and incremental reasoning

### *Java Wrapper* [Ric03]

- Acts like a versatile wrapper wherewith the Java developers can interact with the ASP solver (DLV)
  - Differently, EMBASP makes use of Java Annotations, allowing an easy mapping of input/output to Java Objects

### *JDLV [FGLR12]*

- Based on JASP, an hybrid language that allows a bilateral interaction between ASP and Java
- Uses JPA annotations to define how Java classes map to relations, similarly to ORM frameworks
  - Differently, EMBASP exploits custom annotations, almost effortless to define, in order to deal with the mapping

Moreover, EMBASP is not specifically bound to a single or specific solver and it can be easily extended to deal with any solver, and with different solvers at the same time.

### Tweety [Thi14]

- A set of Java libraries that allow to make use of several knowledge representation systems supporting different logic formalisms
- The use is very similar to EMBASP, both provide libraries to incorporate proper calls to external declarative systems from within “traditional” applications
- Tweety implementation is very rich, covering a wide range of KR formalisms, yet looking less general
  - Differently, EMBASP is mainly focused on fostering the use of ASP in the widest range of contexts and supports the mobile setting

## Conclusions

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# Conclusions

- A general framework for embedding the reasoning capabilities of ASP into external systems
- The fully abstract architecture makes the framework general enough to be adapted to a wide range of scenarios
- Actual Java implementation and two specialized libraries for embedding *DLV* on Android applications and *clingo* on any Java-based desktop application are provided
- Has been tested within some university courses featuring ASP topics, for implementing a set of applications, ranging from AI-based games to educative apps

The framework, documentation, an application showcase and further details are freely available at:

<https://www.mat.unical.it/calimeri/projects/embasp/>

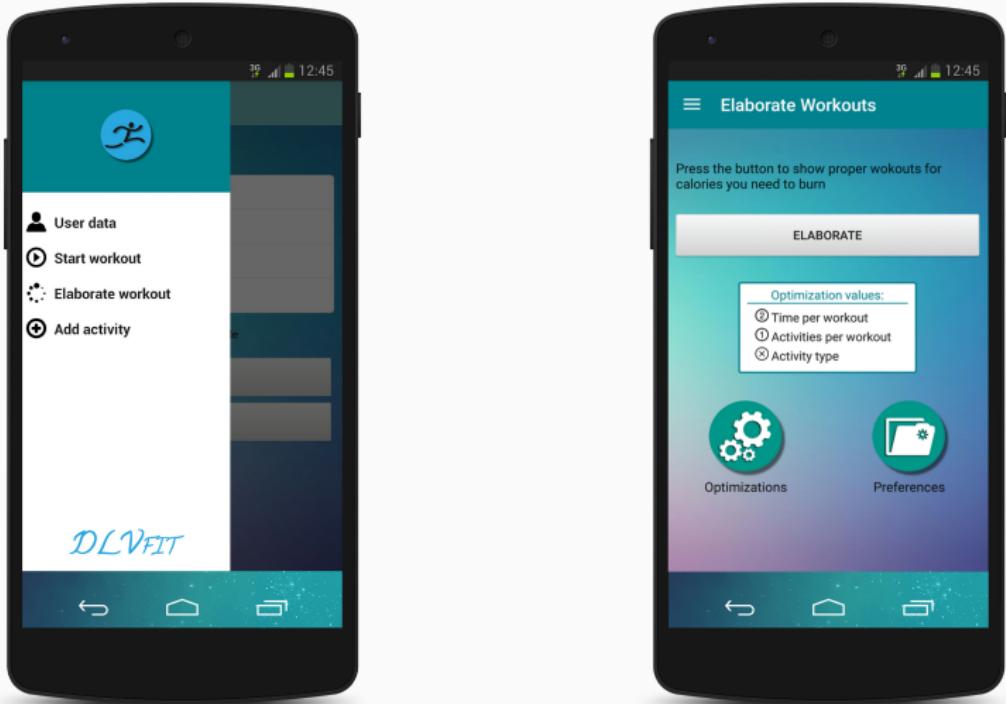
# Questions?



# Questions?

Thank you for your attention.





# DLVFIT - ASP Reasoning Module

- The app *dynamically* builds a suitable ASP program whose answer sets represent workout plans that comply with the *very personal goals* and *preferences* previously expressed
- A classic *Guess/Check/Optimize* paradigm is used:

**Guess** Compute how much time should be spent on each exercise

**Check** Find only admissible workout plans

**Optimize** Try to satisfy the user's preferences to the largest possible extent

## DLVFIT- ASP program: relevants concepts

**calories\_burnt\_per\_activity(A, C)**

the calories burnt (C), in each unit of time, per each Activity (A)

## DLVFIT- ASP program: relevants concepts

**calories\_burnt\_per\_activity(A, C)**

the calories burnt (C), in each unit of time, per each Activity (A)

**remaining\_calories\_to\_burn(R)**

the calories that remain to burn in the current day

## DLVFIT- ASP program: relevants concepts

**calories\_burnt\_per\_activity(A, C)**

the calories burnt (C), in each unit of time, per each Activity (A)

**remaining\_calories\_to\_burn(R)**

the calories that remain to burn in the current day

**how\_long(A, D)**

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the maximum surplus of calories to burn of the suggested workouts

**optimize(T, W, P)**

the specific optimization operation(s) that the user wants to perform

## DLVFIT - An example of Input I (Basic Concepts)

```
calories_burnt_per_activity("ON_BICYCLE", 5).  
calories_burnt_per_activity("WALKING", 2).  
calories_burnt_per_activity("RUNNING", 11).  
  
remaining_calories_to_burn(200).  
  
how_long("ON_BICYCLE", 10).  
how_long("ON_BICYCLE", 20).  
how_long("WALKING", 10).  
how_long("WALKING", 20).  
how_long("RUNNING", 10).  
how_long("RUNNING", 20).  
  
max_time(20).  
  
surplus(100).
```

## DLVFIT - An example of Input II (Custom Optimizations)

```
optimize("RUNNING", 1, 3).  
optimize("WALKING", 2, 3).  
optimize("ON_BICYCLE", 3, 3).
```

maximize the number of favourite activities to perform

## DLVFIT - An example of Input II (Custom Optimizations)

```
optimize("RUNNING", 1, 3).  
optimize("WALKING", 2, 3).  
optimize("ON_BICYCLE", 3, 3).
```

maximize the number of favourite activities to perform

```
optimize(time, 0, 2).
```

minimize total time spent exercising

## DLVFIT - An example of Input II (Custom Optimizations)

```
optimize("RUNNING", 1, 3).
```

```
optimize("WALKING", 2, 3).
```

```
optimize("ON_BICYCLE", 3, 3).
```

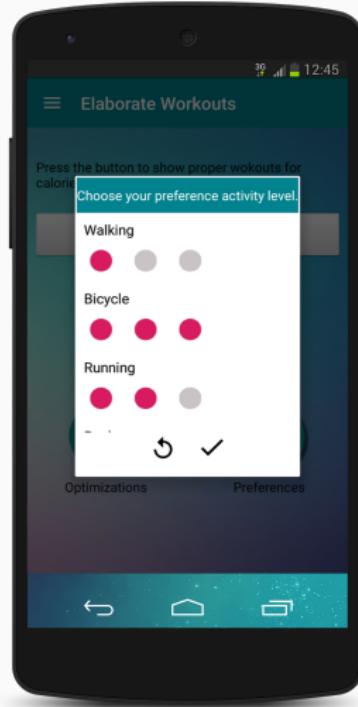
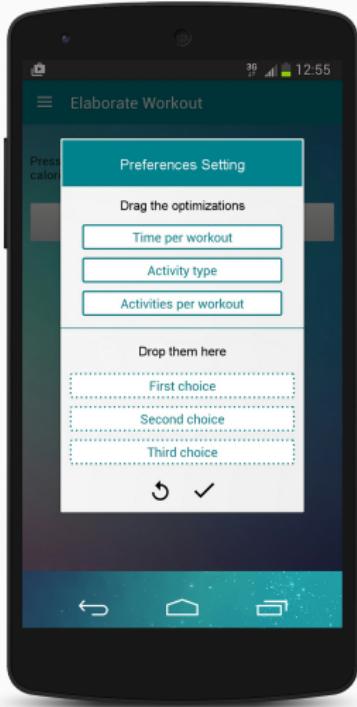
maximize the number of favourite activities to perform

```
optimize(time, 0, 2).
```

minimize total time spent exercising

```
optimize(activities, 0, 1).
```

minimize total number of activities to perform



**Figure 1:** Expressing priorities  
EMBASP - Fuscà, Germano, Zangari, Anastasio, Calimeri, Perri - PPDP 2016

**Figure 2:** Expressing preferences  
EMBASP - Fuscà, Germano, Zangari, Anastasio, Calimeri, Perri - PPDP 2016

## DLVFIT - Logic rules composing the ASP program

```
activity_to_do(A, HL) | not_activity_to_do(A, HL) :- how_long(A, HL).
```

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```

```
:- activity_to_do(A, HL1), activity_to_do(A, HL2), HL1 != HL2.  
:- remaining_calories_to_burn(RC), total_calories_activity_to_do(CB),  
   RC > CB.  
:- remaining_calories_to_burn(RC), total_calories_activity_to_do(CB),  
   CB > RCsurplus, RCsurplus = RC + surplus.  
:- max_time(MTS), total_time_activity_to_do(TS), MTS < TS.
```

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:- max_time(MTS), total_time_activity_to_do(TS), MTS < TS.
```

```
:~ optimize(A, W, P), activity_to_do(A, _). [W:P]  
:~ optimize(time, _, P), activity_to_do(_, HL). [HL:P]  
:~ optimize(activities, _, P), #int(HM),  
           HM = #count{A, HL : activity_to_do(A, HL)}. [HM:P]
```

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